



Wichita Police Department Policy Manual

Approved by:

Policy 408-Traffic Checkpoints

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Maintained by:
Special Operations

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- 408.01 Police actions taken during a traffic checkpoint must be limited in scope to the following:
- A. Examination of:
 - 1.The driver's license;
 - 2.The driver's and/or vehicle's proof of insurance;
 - 3.The vehicle's registration and license-plate decal.
 - B. Observation of:
 - 1.Obvious vehicle-equipment defects;
 - 2.The condition of the driver;
 - 3.Plainly visible portions of the vehicle's interior.
- 408.02 Prior to conducting a traffic checkpoint, officers shall obtain approval from a field supervisor, who shall then be responsible for notifying the Watch Commander, the City Prosecutor's Office and the 911 dispatcher of the location of the checkpoint, and the names and radio numbers of the police personnel who will be involved. The primary consideration in the supervisor's decision shall be the safety of both the public and the involved police personnel.
- 408.03 R After having approved activation of a traffic checkpoint, it shall be the responsibility of the approving supervisor to establish the method for identifying which vehicles will be checked.
- A. The criterion which identifies the vehicles to be checked must be a specifically defined pattern (e.g., every vehicle, every third vehicle, every fifth vehicle, etc.).
 - B. Under no circumstances will vehicles be checked in a totally random manner.
 - C. Four (4) random time-checks (a check of the amount of time a driver is detained, making certain that he/she is not held longer than reasonable to accomplish the purpose of the check lane--see Section 408.07) must be completed each hour. The time-check will begin when the vehicle reaches the advance-warning point, and ends when the inspecting officer releases the vehicle.
- 408.04 Information on scheduled traffic checkpoints shall be provided to the Department's Public Information Officer for dissemination to the news media.
- EXECUTION OF A TRAFFIC CHECKPOINT:
- 408.05 A minimum of four (4) commissioned officers, and one (1) supervisor, are required to conduct a traffic checkpoint.
- 408.06 An advance-warning point, consisting of one, or more marked police unit(s) with activated emergency lighting, shall be established for each direction of traffic to be stopped, and each advance-warning point shall remain in operation for the duration of the traffic checkpoint. The advance-warning points shall:
- A. Alert motorists to the existence of the traffic checkpoint and the necessity to come to a stop;
 - B. Be placed to discourage attempts to evade the traffic checkpoint;
- 408.07 R If no violations are detected, the average time a driver is detained shall not exceed a reasonable amount of time to accomplish the purpose of the check lane, from the advance-warning point to the completion of a routine check. If the inspecting officer cannot greet the motorist, explain the reason he/she is being detained and conduct a routine check within a reasonable time of the driver's coming upon the advance-warning point, then accumulated traffic must be allowed to completely dissipate (except for those vehicles exhibiting an obvious violation) before the check-pattern is re-instituted.
- 408.08 The traffic-checkpoint supervisor shall be responsible for completing the Wichita Police Department Check Lane Activity Report (WPD Form number 321-247) and forwarding it to the Bureau Commander (who shall retain it for a period of one (1) year) within seven (7) days of the traffic checkpoint.